

Message Text

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ACTION IO-14

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ADP-00 EB-11 AGR-20 CIAE-00 INR-10

NSAE-00 RSC-01 COME-00 AID-20 AF-10 ARA-16 EA-11

NEA-10 RSR-01 /150 W

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P R 311000Z AUG 73

FM AMEMBASSY ROME

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 0527

INFO USMISSION USUN NEWYORK

UNCLAS ROME 8978

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: FAO, AGR

SUBJ: WORLD FOOD STOCK SITUATION

FODAG

REF.: ROME 8939

1. FOLLOWING IS TEXT FA DG MESSAGE TO SECRETARY CITED REFTEL.
QUOTE: I AM SERIOUSLY ALARMED BY DANGERS INHERENT IN DETRIO-
RATING WORLD CEREAL SUPPLY POSITION AND BY THE ABSENCE OF ANY
COHERENT INTERNATIONAL ACTION TO MINIMIZE HARMFUL EFFECT ON THE
WORLD COMMUNITY INCLUDING ACCENTUATION OF WORLDWIDE
INFLATION, DISRUPTION OF MARKETS AND THREAT TO CONSUMPTION LEVELS.
HEAVY PHYSICAL DEFICITS ARE INDICATED FOR 1973/74 BY FAO ASSESS-
MENTS AND CONFIRMED BY LATEST ESTIMATES OF INTERNATIONAL WHEAT
COUNCIL WHICH FORECAST IMPORT REQUIREMENTS OF WHEAT AT 66 MILLION
TONS AGAINST EXPORT AVAILABILITIES OF ONLY 57 MILLION
TONS EVEN AFTER ALLOWING FOR A FURTHER REDUCTION OF STOCKS.
THIS INDICATS A GLOBAL DEFICIT OF 9 MILLION TONS IN 1973-74.
IN MY VIEW IT IS IMPERATIVE FOR GOVERNMENTS TO TAKE COOPERATIVE
ACTION TO NARROW THIS GAP BY INCREASING EXPORT AVAILABILITIES AND
ECONOMIZING ON NON HUMAN USES OF WHEAT AND AT THE SAME TIME TO
SHARE AVAILABLE SUPPLIES ACCORDING TO SOME INTERNATIONALLY
ACCEPTABLE CRITERIA SO AS TO ENSURE DISTRIBUTION ON
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AN ORDERLY AND FAIR BASIS TO ALL COUNTRIES. IN PARTICULAR

NECESSARY TO ENSURE THAT VULNERABLE DEVELOPING COUNTRIES ARE ABLE TO OBTAIN THROUGHOUT THE YEAR 1973/74 THEIR MINIMUM ESSENTIAL IMPORTS FOR HUMAN CONSUMPTION TO AVOID ACUTE HARDSHIP, SERIOUS SOCIAL AND POLITICAL INSTABILITY AND POSSIBLE STARVATION LATER IN SEASON. ALSO ALL EFFORTS SHOULD BE MADE TO CONTINUE FOOD AID PROGRAMMES AT NOT LESS THAN LAST YEAR LEVELS IN TERMS OF PHYSICAL QUANTITIES. TO ACHIEVE THESE GOALS IT APPEARS TO ME ESSENTIAL THAT IMMEDIATE STEPS ARE TAKEN BY GOVERNMENTS TO PREPARE WHEAT ALLOCATION ARRANGEMENTS FOR 1973/74 WHICH /INTER ALIA/ SHOULD MAKE PROVISION TO ACCORD PRIORITY TO THE NEEDS OF DEVELOPING COUNTRIES.

IN VIEW SERIOUS SITUATION AND NEED FOR CONCERTED ACTION WITHOUT DELAY I AM HEREBY CONVENING UNDER ARTICLE VI 6 OF FAO CONSTITUTION AN URGENT CONSULTATION OF REPRESENTATIVES OF MAJOR WHEAT EXPORTING MEMBER COUNTRIES TO CONSIDER, IN THE LIGHT OF THE LATEST ASSESSMENT OF THE WORLD CEREALS SUPPLY SITUATION, POSSIBLE ACTION TO MINIMIZE THE HARMFUL EFFECTS OF THE PRESENT WORLD SCARCITY. THE CONSULTATION WILL BE HELD AT FAO HEADQUARTERS ROME ON 20 SEPTEMBER STARTING AT 9:30 AM. I SHALL ATTEND THIS CONSULTATION MYSELF AND HOPE THAT YOUR GOVERNMENT WILL BE REPRESENTED BY A CABINET MINISTER OR A SENIOR POLICY LEVEL OFFICER. I AM ADDRESSING THIS INVITATION TO GOVERNMENTS OF ARGENTINA AUSTRALIA CANADA FRANCE AND UNITED STATES OF AMERICA AS WELL AS THE PRESIDENT OF THE EEC COMMISSION EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF WORLD FOOD PROGRAMME AND EXECUTIVE SECRETARY OF INTERNATIONAL WHEAT COUNCIL.

IN ORDER TO FACILITATE THIS CONSULTATION I HAVE SENT COPIES OF THIS CABLE TO SELECTED MAJOR DEVELOPING IMPORTING MEMBER COUNTRIES WITH REQUEST TO INDICATE TO ME, ON A CONFIDENTIAL BASIS, THEIR LATEST ESTIMATES OF FOODGRAINS IMPORT REQUIREMENTS FOR 1973/74 SEASON, CONTRACTS ALREADY MADE AND ANY SERIOUS PROBLEMS FACED IN OBTAINING IMPORTS. IN ACCORDANCE WITH PROVISIONS OF THE CONSTITUTION MY ACTION IN CONVENING THIS CONSULTATION WILL BE NOTIFIED TO MEMBER NATIONS AND REPORTED TO THE 61ST SESSION OF THE COUNCIL SCHEDULED FOR 5 TO 9 NOVEMBER. THE FORTHCOMING SESSIONS OF THE INTERGOVERNMENTAL GROUP ON GRAINS AND THE CCP WILL PROVIDE OPPORTUNITIES FOR EXTENDING THE CONSULTATIONS ON THIS URGENT PROBLEM TO ALL INTERESTED MEMBER NATIONS IN THE LIGHT OF

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OUTCOME OF THE CONSULTATION AMONG EXPORTING COUNTRIES. HIGHEST CONSIDERATION.
END QUOTE.

2. /FODAG COMMENT:/ DIFFICULT SEE HERE WHAT CAN BE ACCOMPLISHED BY PROPOSED MEETING EXCEPT INCREASING PUBLIC AND GOVERNMENTAL ATTENTION TO SUPPLY SITUATION AND HIGHLIGHTING PROPOSALS WHICH BOERMA HAS SET FORTH IN C 73/17 "WORLD FOOD SECURITY: PROPOSAL

OF THE DIRECTOR-GENERAL," FORTY COPIES OF WHICH EARLIER POUCHED
USDA/IOS.

3. ABOVE-MENTIONED GRAINS GROUPS MEETS OCTOBER 1-5 AND CCP
OCTOBER 8-19. PRIOR SEPTEMBER 20 DG WILL TRAVEL MALTA, SUDAN,
NETHERLANDS, AND POLAND AND BE IN ROME ONLY ON TWO VERY BRIEF
OCCASIONS.VOLPE

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